

FOCUS GROUP ON PRETRIAL, DIVERSION, AND REENTRY SERVICES

Co-Chairs: Col. Mark Westrum & Scott R. Landry

Maine Board of Corrections
State House Station #111
Augusta, ME 04333-0111

Attn: Neal Duffett, Chairman

Dear Board Members;

As the Co-Chairs of the Pretrial, Diversion, and Reentry Focus Group, we are requesting the support of Board of Corrections in continuing the position of Director of Pretrial, Diversion, and Reentry. This one-year position was established through a federal grant in 2009 and was secured by the Board of Corrections with the assistance of its Focus Group on Pretrial, Diversion, and Reentry. At the time we felt strongly that this full time position was needed to coordinate and support pretrial and reentry programs in order to assist the Board of Corrections in its pursuit of the goals of reducing recidivism, improving correctional practices, and increasing system efficiencies. We feel this position has been very successful over the past year. Further, we feel it will become all the more as we move forward with this agenda and ask the Board of Corrections to consider making this a permanent part of the Board's structure. Without prompt action from the BOC, this position is scheduled to end in June of this year.

In January of 2010, Ms. Rodas was selected by the Board of Corrections to fill this position. She was enthusiastically recommended by our focus group due to her ability, qualifications, and passion for quality pretrial and reentry services. In the year that Ms. Rodas has worked for the Board of Corrections, she has been able to move forward many of the issues essential to developing a unified system. In collaboration with our focus group, she has, among other duties, been a vital component to the following successes:

- As Chair of the Maine Reentry Network, she has worked to develop a strong external and internal network of service providers and facilities that are beginning to more fully address the needs of the inmate population as they transition out of facilities and into our communities;
- The development of an increased and standardized capacity for data collection throughout the system for pretrial, diversion, and reentry services. This data will allow for a greater ability to track program performance as the system continues to be improved.
- The creation of a Maine Reentry and Pre-Release Handbook that compiles important information and resources for offenders into one easy-to-access resource;
- The delivery of training to county and state corrections and contracted vendors on the Level of Service Inventory-Revised by Dr. Christopher Lowenkamp. This training built a much needed trainer capacity for use of this evidenced based and validated risk assessment tool throughout Maine critical to the success of the success of Community Confinement Monitoring and other correctional programs;

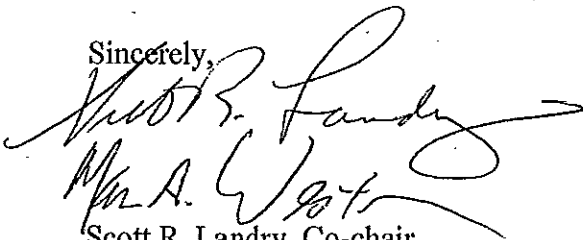
- Ongoing technical assistance to county facilities working to establish reentry services in their jurisdictions;
- The development of Pretrial Standards tailored to the unique needs and goals of Maine's criminal justice system;
- Ongoing efforts to support and bring attention to the mission and goals of the Board of Corrections.

Not only do we support Ms. Rodas continuing in her role with the Board of Corrections, we support the concept of the position in general. As the Board continues to identify a reduction of recidivism and increasing the use of pretrial services as part of its mission, a dedicated employee to coordinate and carry out this work is imperative. Some of the goals that we have identified are:

- Statewide implementation of a pretrial assessment tool.
- Statewide implementation of a pretrial bail report.
- Continued emphasis on reentry coordination and implementation.

Should you have any questions regarding our endorsement both Ms. Rodas and the position she currently holds, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures. The first signature is for Scott R. Landry, written in a cursive style. The second signature is for Col. Mark Westrum, also in cursive, positioned below the first.

Scott R. Landry, Co-chair
Col. Mark Westrum, Co-chair
Focus Group on Pretrial, Diversion &
Reentry Services